

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Lostwithiel.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the hour to present the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Borough for the year 1949.

It is to be regretted that the two Medical Officers who carried out the work during the year have resigned: Dr. Bozman to take up an appointment abroad and Dr. Aitchison because of ill-health.

The vital statistics for 1949 are satisfactory when allowance is made for the excess of old and invalid immigrant persons. The result is a relatively low birth rate (13.12 per thousand population compared with 16.7 per thousand for the whole country) and a relatively high death rate 22.0 per thousand population which on correction for age distribution gives a rate of 15.4 compared with 11.7 per thousand for England and Wales. There were no infant deaths. There has been no abnormal prevalence of infectious disease.

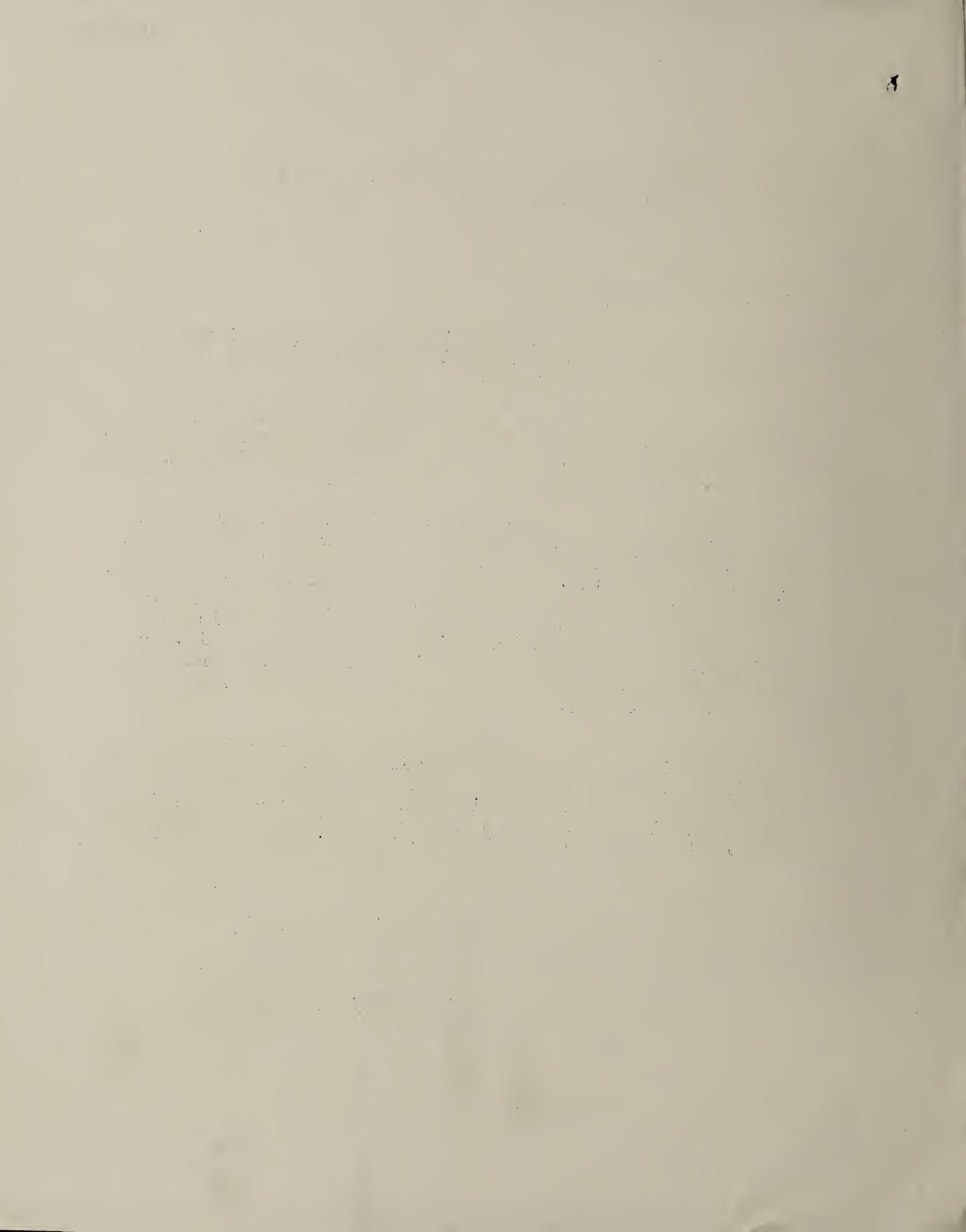
Thanks are due to Mr. Butler, the Sanitary Inspector of the Council and his staff for their assistance during the year. Thanks are due also to Mr. Watts and other Council officers for co-operation and help. It is a pleasure to record gratitude to members of the Public Health Committee for their interest and support.

I have the honour to be, Sirs,

Your obedient servant,

(Sd) J.G.S. TURNER.

Medical Officer of Health.



SECTION A.

AREA - (In acres) 3,050.

Lostwithiel is a charming country town, set in beautiful surroundings in the valley of the Fowey River. The town has many historic associations and some of the old buildings are well preserved. The surrounding district is entirely rural.

POPULATION - The Registrar General has estimated the population for mid-year 1949 to be 2,134 an increase of 21 over that for 1948. The population increases greatly during the holiday season.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES - According to the Rate Book the number of the inhabited houses in the district is 716, the ratable value being £9,697 which represents approximately £40. 0. 0. for a Penny Rate.

METEOROLOGY - The climate is mild and conditions are similar to those elsewhere in South Cornwall. The rainfall for the past three years has been below average. For 1949 the rainfall was 26".

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	
Population	3,050
Number of Inhabited Houses	2,134
Rateable Value	716
Product of a Penny Rate	£9,697
	£40

Lostwithiel Eng. & Wales

Rate per 1000 Population.

LIVE BIRTHS	Male	Female	Total	
Legitimate	13	15	28	
Illegitimate	13	15	28	

13.12. 16.7.

Rate per 1000 Population.

STILL BIRTHS	Nil	Nil	0.39
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Rate per 1000 Live Births

Deaths under 1 year of age (Infant Mortality)	Nil	Nil	32
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Rate per 1000 Population

DEATHS (all ages)	Male	Female	Total	
	20	27	47	

22.0. 11.7

15.4

Rate per 1000 Total Births

Maternal Mortality	Nil	Nil	0.98
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Rate per 1000 Live Births

DEATHS Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	Nil	Nil	3.0
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CAUSES OF DEATH.

The following is a list of the causes of death, in accordance with the International List of Causes of Death, 1938 :-

	<u>Tub: of rcsp.sys.</u>	<u>Cancer of buc:cav: & uterus</u>	<u>Cancer of breast</u>	<u>Cancer of all other sites</u>
M.	-	-	-	4
F.	1	1	2	3
	<u>Intracranial vascular lesions.</u>	<u>Heart Diseases.</u>	<u>Other dis: of circ system.</u>	<u>Bronchitis.</u>
M.	5	7	1	-
F.	4	6	4	1
	<u>Other resp: disc.</u>	<u>Other digvc.dis:</u>	<u>Nephritis.</u>	<u>All other Causes.</u>
M.	1	1	-	1
F.	1	-	1	3

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

1. Medical Officer of Health.

Dr. Bozman O.B.E., M.B. Ch.B., D.P.H. January 1st to March 17th.

Dr. Aitchison M.C., M.A., M.B. Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H. June 11th to December 31st.

2. Sanitary Inspector (part time) A.F. Buller, A.R.S.I.

LABORATORY FACILITIES - Facilities are available at the Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro, where all material is sent for investigation.

DIPHTHERIA ANTITOXIN - A supply is maintained at the Health Area Office, St. Austell, and is obtainable on request by Medical Practitioners.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES - These are now provided by the County Council from the main Ambulance Station at St. Austell. In emergencies, at night, and at weekends, help is given by voluntary staff from neighbouring districts.

Thanks are due to Mrs. Batchelor the Organiser of the Hospital Car Service and to the many ladies and gentlemen who provided transport on request.

NURSING IN THE HOME - The establishment of Nurses for the area is 1 District Nurse - Midwife - Health Visitor. The service is satisfactory.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE - It has not yet been possible to establish an Infant Welfare Clinic but negotiations have been in progress with the Trustees of the Wesley Church and agreement has been reached. About half the births in the district take place at home and this proportion is not likely to change owing to the lack of hospital facilities.

HOSPITALS - No hospitals exist within the district and patients are sent to St. Austell, Bodmin, Truro and Redruth. Cases requiring isolation and special treatment are sent to the Truro Isolation Hospital.

CARE AND AFTER CARE - This is confined at present to cases of Tuberculosis. One case was provided for at a cost of £4.13.0.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE - This service has been organised by Mrs. Clark to whom thanks are due. The establishment is one full-time home-help. A total of 14 persons were aided of whom 3 were maternity cases. 3% of the cost was recovered. This low recovery rate was due to the fact that most of those aided were old and had small incomes.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER. During the year a total of approximately 17 million gallons of water were pumped, giving a daily average of 40,000 gallons. In addition a further 30,000 gallons per day were supplied from gravitational sources of Collibacon and Maudlin. The average cost per 1000 gallons supplied was 1/1½.

The scheme for the supply of Lower Polscoc has been prepared and application made to the Ministry of Health for loan sanction.

Numerous inspections have been made of reservoirs, filter beds, gathering grounds and pumping station.

There is little progress to report in connection with the Dc Lank River scheme. Preparation of costs indicate that the Council would have to face an expenditure of £4,100 made up as follows :-

(a) Contribution to branch main	£600.
(b) New mains	£3500.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. The main drainage of the town is to the Fowey River where crude sewage is discharged untreated. As a result there is serious nuisance during the summer months. A scheme is now in course of preparation to deal with the Bridgend side of the town at an approximate cost of £15,000.

DISINFECTION. This is carried out as required.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919. The sewers have been regularly baited and so also has the refuse dump below the town. Premises have been dealt with on request.

NUISANCES. 29 nuisances were dealt with and remedied as a result of informal action.

SECTION D.

H O U S I N G.

There is a great shortage of houses as elsewhere in the County.

Twenty four non-traditional houses have been built and occupied during the year. Tenders have been requested for a further two houses to complete the scheme on the site.

Building is now at a standstill owing to the refusal of the Ministry of Health to allow further building until the town is adequately sewercd. As already stated a sewerage scheme is being prepared and will be submitted for approval in the near future.

There are 66 names on the housing list of those who need separate homes or require to be re-housed.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK.

Routine inspections were carried out on all producers and retailers until the new legislation was introduced limiting the duty of the Council to the control of retailers. There are now two retailers whose premises and equipment are inspected regularly.

ICE-CREAM.

There are five registered ice-cream vendors, and one manufacturer. The product is satisfactory.

FOOD INSPECTIONS.

No detailed information is available. No action has been necessary for the adulteration of food.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Notification of the following infectious diseases were received during the year :-

Disease	Number of Cases 1949	Rate per 1000 population.		
		Lostwithiel 1948	1949	Eng. & Wales 1949.
Pneumonia	2	6.10	0.94	0.80
Whooping Cough	6	7.05	2.81	2.39
Measles	85	4.25	39.90	8.95
Poliomyelitis	1	-	0.47	0.13

Puerperal Pyrexia	Rate per 1000 Births.		
	1	-	35.70
			<u>6.31</u>

Total 95

There were no deaths from infectious diseases.

Measles is normally epidemic every other year and it is to be anticipated that during 1950 the incidence will be low.

The Borough shared in the outbreak of acute Poliomyelitis during the year, but the incidence was low compared with neighbouring areas. Active research is being undertaken into the control of this crippling disease.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The following table gives the number of children at 31st December 1949 who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time prior to that date.

Age at 31.12.48 i.e. born in year	Under 1 1949.	1 1948	2 1947	3 1946	4 1945	5 to 9 1940-44	10 to 14 1935-39
Number immunised	6	44	39	37	33	43	6
							Total under
							15 208
Estimated mid year child population 1949			171		239		410
Percentage immunised			93%		18.1%		50.3%

The above figures which are derived from returns submitted by Medical Practitioners are undoubtedly an underestimate for those over the age of 5 years. There is little doubt that we owe our present freedom from diphtheria to immunisation.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table gives the age and sex distribution of new Cases and Deaths for the year 1949.

Age Groups.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Other		Pulmonary		Other	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year								
1 - 4 yrs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 9 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 14 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 19 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 24 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 34 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 44 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
45 - 54 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 64 "	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 - 75 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over 75 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	No. on Register	Written Notices	Occupiers Inspections	prosecuted.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	11	7	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	5	-	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (including out-workers' premises).	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	16	7	-	-

Particulars.	Found	Referred To H.M.	by H.M.	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Remedied	Inspector	Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	-	-	-	-
(a) insufficient	1	Nil	-	1
(b) unsuitable or defective.	-	-	-	-
(c) not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork).	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	1	Nil	-	-

